

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn): A computer-based facility for trading units of electrical energy, at least a portion of each unit being from a renewable energy power production facility, comprising:

a first I/O mechanism configured to receive a bid message including an amount of power to be delivered by said renewable energy power production facility to a power grid at a predetermined future time;

a second I/O mechanism configured to receive an offer message including an offer price for said amount of power;

a memory configured to hold computer readable instructions; and

a processor configured to execute said computer readable instructions so as to implement,

an offer acceptance mechanism configured to determine if said offer price in said offer message meets or exceeds a predetermined price, and

an acceptance notification mechanism configured to send a notification message to a sender of said bid message informing said sender of an acceptance by a purchaser.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said offer acceptance mechanism being configured to determine if the offer price has been met if said offer price meets or exceeds other offers within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said offer acceptance mechanism is configured to determine if said offer price is met when said offer price meets or exceeds a predetermined price.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said at least a portion of said unit of power being premier power.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said acceptance notification mechanism is configured to include in said notification message, at least one of an identity of a purchaser and a location of where the power from the renewal energy source is to be delivered on behalf of the purchaser.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said message includes an indication that said amount of power being guaranteed by the power generated from another electrical power generation facility.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 6, wherein the amount of power is guaranteed by an options contract.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 6, wherein said amount of power is guaranteed by a bi-lateral agreement between another electrical power generation facility and an operator of a renewable energy source such that a short fall from the renewable energy source is compensated for by increased production by the other electrical energy production facility.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said offer message includes the offer price from pooled resources from multiple investors, respective of the investors contributing predetermined portions of said pooled resources to constitute said offer price.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 9, wherein said pooled resources are aggregated in the form of a mutual fund.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said second I/O mechanism is configured to receive the offer message from a remote computer facility that aggregates the pooled resources from the multiple investors at the remote computer facility and presents a portion of the pooled resources as the offer price.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 2, wherein said acceptance notification mechanism informs said remote computer facility of the acceptance so that said remote computer facility can account for the respective investment accrual attributable to respective of the multiple investors when said unit of energy is delivered to the power grid.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said processor is configured to provide an evaluation mechanism that receives meteorological data from an external source so as to predict a likelihood of delivery of the renewal energy source at said predetermined future time.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The facility of claim 1, wherein said unit of power from the renewable energy source being supplemented with power from a virtual energy storage facility during a period of time when a load on the power grid is high and said renewal energy

source being configured to provide power therefrom on behalf of the virtual energy storage facility in time periods when the load is low.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method for coordinating power output from a renewable power production facility with another power production facility so as to implement a virtual energy storage mechanism for the renewable power production facility, comprising steps of:

producing and applying to transmission lines a predetermined amount of electric power collectively provided by from the renewable power production facility and from said ~~other~~ another power production facility, said renewable power production facility applying a variable amount of electric power, and said another power production facility applying a controllable amount of electric power;

determining that ~~[[an]]~~ the variable amount of power produced by the renewable power production facility deviates from a threshold by a predetermined quantity;

informing said another power production facility of said predetermined quantity;

adjusting and applying to the transmission lines a power output of said ~~other~~ another power production facility by an amount that corresponds with said predetermined quantity so as to compensate for any deviation from the threshold by the renewable power production facility and have a resultant total power produced by or on behalf of the renewable power production facility to be approximately at said threshold; and

keeping an account balance in a memory of an amount of energy to be later produced by the another power production facility on behalf of the renewable power production facility~~[[.]]~~ ,wherein said another power production facility serves as the virtual energy storage mechanism by releasing stored resources to produce power to cover a production shortfall by said renewable power production facility, and by increasing potential energy

capturing and storing resources at the another power production facility to offset a production surplus by the renewable power production facility.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein said renewable power production facility being a wind turbine electric power production facility.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 15, wherein said keeping step includes allowing for a negative balance during peak production times, and adding to said account balance during off-peak times.

Claim 19 (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 15, further comprising a step of selling a unit of power output from said renewable power production facility when a market sale price for said unit of power exceeds an estimated future value of said unit of power produced at a later time.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of Claim 15, further comprising a step of offering for sale a unit of power, said unit of power including an undetermined amount of electric power from said renewable power production facility at a predetermined future time and guaranteeing delivery of said unit of power with an adjusted power output from the another power production facility.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of Claim 20, further comprising a step of offering for sale said unit of power on a renewable exchange.

Claim 22 (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 21, further comprising a step of setting a price at which said power unit is offered for sale, said price being greater than or equal to an estimated value of virtually storing the power unit by increasing said account balance by said power unit for use at a later time.

Claim 23 (Original): The method of Claim 21, further comprising a step of notifying an operator of said renewable power production facility when said power unit is sold.

Claim 24 (Original): The method of Claim 20, further comprising a step of obtaining transmission rights for transferring said power output from the renewable power production facility to a transmission grid that connects to the another power production facility when said adjusting step adjusts the power output to a lower level than for what the another power production facility is obligated to provide.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of Claim 21, further comprising the step of offering meteorological data associated with when said power output from said renewable power production facility is offered for delivery, and estimating a likelihood of delivery using said meteorological data.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of Claim 25, further comprising a step of placing a value on the power unit based on a future likelihood of delivery.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of Claim 17, further comprising a step of selling a predetermined portion of an accumulated energy stored at said virtual energy storage mechanism.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of Claim 15, further comprising a step of controlling directly said another power production facility to implement said adjusting step through a ganged operation with said renewable power production facility.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein said adjusting step includes adjusting the power output by receiving a data message via an electronic communication with said renewable power production facility.

Claim 30 (Original): The method of Claim 15, wherein said adjusting step includes informing said another power production facility of said predetermined quantity using at least one of non-electronic communication and telephonic communication.